

## Money for Soldiers.

Hundreds of the letters we receive from old soldiers and the widows of those who have passed into the other life are exceedingly touching; and all who have been paid pensions long due them express such warm gratitude to the Government. How many happy, happy homes have been made by the sums referred to below:

PLAINFIELD, WIS., March 24, 1881.  
MR. LEMON: Accept sincere thanks for getting me, through much labor, my pension money. I received \$197.77.  
Yours truly,  
ALBIO E. CHAMBERLIN.

OOSTO, WIS., March 21, 1881.  
MR. G. E. LEMON: I write you to inform you that I got my pension money, \$736.40, less the \$10 you charged for working to get it for me. Accept my sincere thanks.  
ANDREW J. McFADDEN.

UNADILLA, N. Y., March 23, 1881.  
MR. LEMON: I received my pension-check some days ago for \$1,423.73. For your good work in getting it for me I thank you.  
Yours,  
GEO. B. JORDAN.

LYONS, N. Y., March 25, 1881.  
MR. LEMON: I return you my sincere thanks for prosecuting my claim to a successful issue. I received a check for \$1,172.73, for which I very much obliged to you.  
Yours respectfully,  
RODERICK STEWART.

KEYPORT, N. J., March 26, 1881.  
GEORGE E. LEMON: I have received from the U. S. pension agent a check for \$1,526 pension due me. Please accept my thanks for the manner in which you have prosecuted my claim.  
Yours, respectfully,  
HENRY WILLIAMS.

MILLVILLE, N. J., March 28, 1881.  
MR. LEMON: I have received \$100 pension-money, thanks to your able efforts as my attorney.  
Your friend,  
JAMES PEDIT.

DENVER, CO., March 23, 1881.  
GEO. E. LEMON: This is to inform you that I received my pension money, \$784.55. Please accept many thanks.  
Very truly,  
JOSEPH A. FRAKER.

SEDGWICK, KAN., March 25, 1881.  
GEO. E. LEMON: Accept my heartfelt thanks for getting me my pension money. I got \$1,425.60.  
Very truly yours,  
RUFUS W. PARKS.

NORTH CHERMUNG, N. Y., March 25, 1881.  
MR. LEMON: I thank you truly for your untiring efforts to secure my pension money. I received \$731.53.  
Yours with thanks,  
MRS. AIRS SCOTT.

NECEDAH, WIS., March 28, 1881.  
G. E. LEMON, Esq.: I have received my pension money all right, \$1,654.40. I thank you cordially for your valuable work for me.  
Yours respectfully,  
H. L. NYE.

MONTOURVILLE, PA., March 28, 1881.  
MR. LEMON: For the pension money you have secured for me, \$384, please accept my grateful thanks.  
Respectfully,  
PETER B. BUBB.

AUGUSTA, KAN., March 27, 1881.  
GEO. E. LEMON, Esq.: I am in receipt of pension certificate granting me \$3 per month, also voucher for \$1,479.47 back pension. Accept many thanks for your management of my case.  
Yours respectfully,  
DENNIS FITZPATRICK.

POY SIFFI, WAUSHARA CO., WIS., Feb. 6, 1881.  
Capt. LEMON: Less your attorney fee of only \$10, I received from the pension agent \$226.27 and, now give you my best thanks for your final success in getting me my money.  
Yours respectfully,  
EDGAR C. BREWSTER.

FINE, ST. LAWRENCE CO., N. Y., March 30, 1881.  
GEO. E. LEMON, Esq.: I have to inform you that I received \$1,800 pension money through your kind and able efforts to secure it for me.  
Yours very truly,  
WM. P. MILLER.

ELMIRA, N. Y., April 2, 1881.  
GEO. E. LEMON, Esq.: I return you my warmest thanks for getting me my pension money, which came to over \$1,300.  
Yours truly,  
SARAH J. STRONG.

CEDAR FALLS, WIS., April 1, 1881.  
MR. G. E. LEMON: I have received my pension certificate and drawn what it calls for, \$730.47. I thank you very much.  
Yours, etc.,  
ALBERT WING.

DALLAS, TEXAS, March 29, 1881.  
Capt. LEMON: I have received this day my pension-check for \$1,468.07. I thank you very gratefully as my attorney.  
Yours, &c.,  
JOHN F. TAYLOR.

COUDERSPORT, POTTER CO., PA., March 28, 1881.  
Dear Mr. LEMON: You have got for me my pension-money, \$1,355.90, and I shall ever feel deeply grateful for your services as my attorney.  
Your warmest friend,  
FRANCIS B. McNAMARA.

DALLAS CITY, HANCOCK CO., ILL., March 30, 1881.  
MR. GEO. E. LEMON: I have received my first payment of pension-money \$872, and I thank you very much for your services in getting it for me.  
Very respectfully,  
LEONARD HARTENSTEIN.

COLUMBUS, IND., Feb. 26, 1881.  
MR. G. E. LEMON: Many thanks to you for getting claim allowed—money has been received—\$703.93.  
Yours truly,  
JOS. LARRINORE.

WEST UNION, FAYETTE CO., IOWA, April 6, 1881.  
G. E. LEMON, Esq.: I return you my sincere regards for getting, after much work, my pension money. I received \$1,641.87.  
Yours with respect,  
ELIZABETH M. CAMPBELL.

KANSAS CITY, MO., March 31, 1881.  
MR. LEMON: I have received my pension-check for \$842 and thank you for your labor in getting the same for me.  
Your obedient servant,  
THOS. N. HUMES.

ROCKVILLE, PARK CO., IND., Feb. 28, 1881.

MR. G. E. LEMON: I hereby inform you that I have received my pension-check for \$2,215.67 and now sincerely thank you for so ably handling my claim.  
Yours with respect,  
JOHN LODGE.

RAY, IND., March 15, 1881.  
MR. LEMON: I thank you very heartily for getting me, after much labor, my pension-money. It came to over \$700.  
Yours truly,  
RENWICK J. JAMESON.

STAMFORD, VERMONT, April 13, 1881.  
GEO. E. LEMON, Attorney, &c.: I write to say that I have a pension certificate granting me \$1 per month, and have just received pension-check for \$755.40. I am very grateful to you as my attorney in securing this money for me.  
Yours respectfully,  
J. P. HALLER.

## THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

## An Appeal for Assistance for the Institution.

The trustees of the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts have issued the following appeal in behalf of the institution which they represent:

Massachusetts has done much for her soldiers. But her soldiers did more for Massachusetts. For, "all that a man hath will he give for his life."

In explanation of their poverty, it must be remembered that many got no bounties or increased pay, and that the soldiers' money depreciated more than sixty per cent., though the "General Orders" of Sept. 3, 1861, promised "treasury notes as good as gold." These men lost their best years for forming business habits and connections. Not all, even wounded men, who merit pensions, can get them. The law's delay starves some. For others, evidence is forever lost. The four National Homes are not legally open to all meritorious soldiers in distress; and even if they were, *exile* from the State was no part of the State's promise. The splendid shreds and tatters enshrined in Dorie Hall are the only pride that fate has left to many a broken-hearted man. The blood-stained battle flags of his own regiment, at least, are his. Amid scenes of desolation that no words can tell, he has risked his life for the State's pale banner. It is no charity to send him away to some distant National Home to die, far from every comrade, far from every kindred, far from his historic Massachusetts, to use Andrew's glowing words, from these "proud memories of many fields, sweet memories alike of valor and of friendship, immortal memories with immortal honors blended." To enshrine the senseless emblem of victory and remit its victorious bearer to exile or the pauper's grave, is not in accord with the noblest inspiration and traditions of the logical old Bay State. Proud as she is, she once relied, through anxious days and nights, upon that humble life's devotion. For what he was, and all he dared, remember him to-day.

New York has established a Soldiers' Home. Other States have provided hospitals. Maine has a Soldiers' Home, in addition to the great National Home at Togus. Massachusetts has lavished much money under State aid laws, which recent codification shows to be incoherent, and which, it cannot be denied, are ineffectual to keep masses of her soldiers out of the poorhouse. But she has no Soldiers' Home for despairing men who were once the wall between her credit and Lee's armies, though she owns twice as many bonds and bank stocks as all the Southern States; all of which would have been waste paper if Lee had succeeded. It was in the days of Roman luxury that Caligula ordered the old gladiators to be given to the lions of the circus, because worn-out fighting men were useless, and meat was dear.

A hospital home in Massachusetts has become a necessity for our feeble and destitute soldiers, some of whom are over seventy years of age. The Grand Army, which has contributed largely, halls with joy such a coadjutor.

Under a pressing sense of a debt to patriotism, charity, and justice, the undersigned, incorporated "Trustees of the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts," have at last purchased, at a quarter of its original cost and fully furnished, the Highland Park Hotel, on Powder Horn Hill, in Chelsea. It is near Boston, large enough for the present, and can be trebled in size. They propose to make this Soldiers' Home a monument of the State's "undying gratitude to 'soldiers so brave and citizens so beloved.'"

Subscriptions, gifts, bequests are earnestly solicited. A large fund is required for permanent support. A single fair for the Soldiers' Home, at Quincy, netted nearly a quarter of a million of dollars. Arrangements are now on foot to open a grand State bazaar or fair for this Soldiers' Home next December on the largest scale ever seen in this Commonwealth, and under the auspices of the most distinguished names. The assistance of all charitable men and women is most respectfully solicited by the undersigned.

Alexander H. Rice, Charles Devens, George H. Patch, Samuel Dalton, William S. Brown, Cyrus O. Emery, John McKay, Jr., Charles W. Wiley, William Gaston, George S. Evans, Edward T. Raymond, Andrew J. Bailey, Joseph F. Lovering, J. G. B. Adams, E. G. W. Cartwright, John A. Hawes, Horace Binney Sargent, President; James F. Meach, Secretary.

## Memorial and Argumentative Appeal in Behalf of the Survivors of Andersonville and other Southern Military Prisons.

It is a historical fact that in the early part of 1864, shortly after the battles in the wilderness, certain high officials of the Federal Government decided it was more economical to stop the exchange of prisoners of war entirely.

This policy of non-exchange was understood to be based on the following facts:

That a soldier counted for more in the Confederate army than acting on the defensive; that many of the Andersonville prisoners were men whose term of service had already expired; that all of them were disabled by starvation and exposure and unfit for further service, while every Confederate was able-bodied and "in for the war," so that an exchange would have been a gratuitous strengthening of the armies of the Confederacy, which at the same time would have prevented the prisoners held by the South from falling into the hands of Sherman.

August 14th, 1864, General Grant telegraphed to Gen. Butler: "It is hard on our men held in southern prisons not to exchange them; but it is humane to those left in the ranks to fight our battles. If we now commence a system of exchange which liberates all prisoners taken, we will have to fight on till the whole South is exterminated. If we hold those captured, they count for more than dead men."

In accordance with General Grant's opinion General Butler then wrote a letter in reply to Colonel Ould's proposals of exchange.

In his famous Lowell speech, Butler said: "In this letter these questions of exchange were argued justly as I think, not diplomatically, but obtrusively and demonstratively; not for the purpose of furthering an exchange of prisoners, but for the purpose of preventing and stopping the exchange, and furnishing a ground upon which we could stand." The men who languished at Andersonville and other Confederate prisons, played, in their sufferings and death, a most essential part in the termination of the war.

This part was not so stirring as charging on the guns or meeting in the clash of infantry lines. But as the victims of a policy, dictated by the emergency of a desperate condition of affairs, their enforced, long-continued hardships and sufferings made it possible for the Union generals and their armies to decide the deplorable struggle so much sooner, and to terminate the existence of the Con-

federacy by the surrender at Appomattox. No soldier or seaman, in this or any other country, ever made such personal sacrifices or endured such hardships and privations as those who fell into the hands of the Confederates as prisoners during the late war. The recital of their sufferings would be scarcely believed were they not corroborated by so large a number of unimpeachable witnesses of both sides.

Colonel D. T. Chandler, C. S. A. report on Andersonville, dated Aug. 5, 1864, in which he said: "It is difficult to describe the horrors of the prison, which is a disgrace to civilization," was endorsed by Col. R. H. Chilton, Inspector-General C. S. A., as follows: "The condition of the prison at Andersonville is a reproach to us as a nation."

The sixty thousand graves filled by the poor victims of the several prisons, tells a story that cannot be denied nor misunderstood. When we consider the hardships and privations to which these men were subjected, the wonder is not that so many died, but that any survived. We submit, it is hardly possible that any man who was subjected to the hardships and inhuman treatment of a Confederate prison for even two or three months only, could come out any other than permanently disabled. Statistics show that of those who were released, nearly 5 per cent. died before reaching home. In a few instances there was a roll kept of thirty to fifty of these men who, when released, were able to travel home alone, and it is now found that nearly three-fourths of that number have since died.

The roll of the Andersonville Survivors Association shows that during the year 1880 the number of deaths averaged 16 1/2 per cent of the total membership, showing an increase of 5 per cent. over the death rate of 1879.

But few of the most fortunate of these survivors will live to see the age of fifty, and probably within the next ten years years the last of them will have passed away.

Congress has from time to time enacted laws most just and liberal (or that were intended to be so) towards the men who were disabled in the late war, but a large majority of the prison survivors are excluded from a pension under these laws. This comes partly from the unfriendly spirit in which the Pension Department has been administered for the past six years and partly from the peculiar circumstances surrounding their several cases.

Many paroled prisoners, on reaching the Union lines, were at once sent home on furlough, without receiving any medical treatment. The most of these were afterwards discharged under General Order No. 77, dated War Department, Washington, D. C., April 28th, 1865, because physically unfit for service, and hence there is no official record as to their disease.

If one of those men applies for pension, he is called on to furnish the affidavit of some army surgeon who treated him after his release and prior to discharge, showing that he then had the disease on which he claims a pension. For reasons stated, this is impossible. The next thing is a call to furnish an affidavit from some doctor who treated the man while at home on furlough, or certainly immediately following his final discharge showing that he was afflicted with the identical disease on which pension is now claimed. This is generally impossible, for many reasons. In most cases the released prisoner felt it was not medicine he wanted, but the kindly nursing of mother or wife and nourishing food. So no doctor was called, at least for some months after reaching home. In the instances where a doctor was called, not unfrequently he cannot now be found, or if found cannot swear that the soldier had any particular disease for the first six months after reaching home, as he was a mere skeleton from starvation, and it required months of careful nursing before he had vitality enough for a disease to make its presence manifest.

Then, again, in many cases the poor victim has never suffered from any particular disease, but rather from a combination of numerous ills, the sequence of a wrecked constitution commonly termed by physicians "General Debility." But the Commissioner refuses to grant a pension on disease save where the proof is clear and positive of the contracting of a particular disease while in the service, or its existence at date of final discharge, and of its continuous existence from year to year for each and every year, to present date.

In most cases it is impossible for a prison survivor to furnish any such proof, and hence his application is promptly rejected. Besides these, there are hundreds of other obstacles in the way of the surviving prisoner of war who applies for a pension. One thing is, he is called upon to prove by comrades who were in prison with him, the origin and nature of his disease, and his condition prior to and at the time of his release. This is generally impossible, as he was likely to have few comrades in prison with whom he was on intimate terms, and these, if not now dead, cannot now be found; but even if found, they are men without sufficient knowledge of anatomy and physiology, and not one of a hundred could conscientiously swear to the origin and diagnosis of the applicant's disease. Is it not ridiculous for the Commissioner to insist upon such preposterous evidence, which, if produced in due form, is as a rule drawn up by the applicant's physician, and sworn to by the witness—"cum grano salis," and in most cases amounts to perjury for charity's sake.

Hence, it will be seen the difficulties surrounding the prison survivor who is disabled and compelled to apply for a pension, are so numerous and insurmountable as to shut out a very large majority of the most needy and deserving cases from the benefits of the general pension laws entirely.

We claim, therefore, that as an act of equal justice to these men, as compared with other soldiers, there ought to be a law passed admitting them to pension on record or other proof of confinement in in a Confederate prison for a prescribed length of time, such as Bill 495, introduced by the Hon. J. Warren Keifer, M. C., from Ohio, provides for. And if this bill is to benefit these poor sufferers any, it must be passed speedily, as those who yet remain, will at best survive but a few years longer.

This measure is not asked as a pecuniary compensation for the personal losses these men sustained, as silver and gold cannot be weighed as the price for such untold sufferings; but it is asked that they may be partly relieved from abject want, and their sufferings alleviated to some extent by providing them with the necessities of life, for nearly all of them are extremely poor, consequent on the wreck of the physical and mental powers.

By FELIX LA BAUME.

Wishing to pay his friend a compliment, a gentleman remarked: "I hear you have a very industrious wife." "Yes," replied the friend, with a melancholy smile, "she is never idle. She always finds something for me to do."